

CARL JOHN E. FJELD.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Carl John Ellevsen Fjeld was born January 26, 1825, in Drammen, Norway. His father, Ellev Johnson Fjeld (he was called Fjeld because of long service at Fjeldgaard, Mountain Estate, near Drammen) came from Sigdahl, Norway, and was born July 30, 1789. His mother, Anna Halvorsen, was born March, 1791, in Hillestasogn, Norway.

Carl's boyhood was spent in a ceaseless struggle for the bare necessities of life, as his parents were very poor, and although he had no schooling he became quite proficient in reading and writing. When sixteen years of age he went to sea, and spent a few years on the briny deep, much against the wishes of his mother.

She finally persuaded him to give up sailing and to settle down to work and as a result he learned the trade of iron founder, at the Eidsfos Iron Works.

On the 15th of February, 1846, he took to wife Maren Eline Peterson, daughter of Peter Mortensen and Sophie Andreason, born February 5, 1822, in Hoff, Norway.

In the winter of 1852-1853 he went to Denmark, and there met the late President C. D. Fjeldsted, a fellow workman, who converted him to Mormonism. He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints April 6, 1853, by Peter Hansen.

The following May he returned to Norway, and during the summer moved his family to Christiania, where he had secured work. In the fall, Canute Peterson, whom he had met in Denmark, came to do missionary work in Norway's capital, and found a number of earnest investigators among Fjeld's companions in the foundry.

A regular missionary campaign was now inaugurated, the meetings being held in Fjeld's house, and on December 8, 1853, a branch of the Church was organized with nine members. Fjeld was ordained a priest and set apart to preside. This branch has continued to the present and is one of the strongest in the lands of the north.

During the next seven years, Carl assisted the elders and took an active part in the ministry, and also endured his full share of the persecutions which the work had generally aroused. In the spring of 1860, with his family, he left his native land enroute for Utah, crossing the ocean in the good ship "William Tapscott," under the command of Captain Bell, and the plains in Captain Oscar O. Stoddard's handcart company, arriving in Salt Lake City, September 24, 1860. The first winter was spent in Salt Lake City, and in the spring they moved to Lehi, as Fjeld had engaged to work for his friend, Canute Peterson.

It 'was quite a change for the iron founder to drive an ox team while working on the farm or in the canyon, but this was the usual occupation of the pioneers of those days. On account of grasshopper wars and other wars, it was a hard struggle to get food enough for the family and the bread was often eaten bare.

On November 8, 1862, he married Anna Olson, a Swedish girl he had become acquainted with on the journey to Utah, and in 1866 he moved his first family to John C. Nagle's place, now known as Saratoga Springs, while the second family remained in Lehi. In 1870, another move was made to Pelican Point to take charge of the stage station, but the next year the route was changed through Cedar Valley, so the family moved to Eureka, where they have since resided.

In the spring of 1876, Fjeld returned to Lehi alone, where he spent the remainder of his days. He again became active in church work, to which he was very much devoted. He was one of the active deacons and a faithful Sunday School teacher. Among the Scandinavians he was a great favorite, taking a prominent part in their meetings, and generally leading the singing.

He died January 8, 1888. Maren Eline is still living in Eureka, where she is familiarly known as Grandma "Fields," and although she is in her ninety-second year, she is hale and hearty. She had eight children, six of whom reached maturity as follows: Anne Susannah (Mrs. John A. Hansen). Josephine Amelia (Mrs. Wm. Montgomery). Charles Peter. Heber Sommund. Sarah Maria (Mrs. Robert Harrison, deceased). Daniel (also deceased).